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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/594,083	09/25/2006	Saimon Otaka	101790.58258US	8070

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EXAMINER

CHEUNG, MANKO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2863

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/594,083	Applicant(s) OTAKA ET AL.	
	Examiner Manko Cheung	Art Unit 2863	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 May 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 September 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>25 September 2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Inventorship

1. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendments to the specification and claims, filed 5/26/2009, are accepted and appreciated by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. **Claims 17-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kowatari et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,101,456; hereinafter Kowatari) in view of Collins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,671,641; hereinafter Collins).**

Regarding claims 17 and 21, Kowatari et al. teaches a displacement control method and displacement control device, comprising:

1) a calculating step of calculating a displacement control signal for driving a proportional electromagnetic valve based on a displacement command (*Kowatari, column 9, lines 26-35 and figure 1; i is the displacement control signal, element 3 of figure 1 is the proportional electromagnetic valve; column 10, lines 34-40, 52-54 and see also figure 6 and 7, the tilting θ is the displacement command indirectly related to displacement control signal i*); and

2) an adjusting step of adjusting a displacement angle of a hydraulic device by driving the proportional electromagnetic valve with the displacement control signal calculated in the calculating step, and applying a displacement control pressure generated from the proportional electromagnetic valve to a displacement adjusting device (*Kowatari, column 9, lines 26-35 and figure 1, column 10, lines 9-10 and figure 2; hydraulic pump 1 is the hydraulic device driven by proportional electromagnetic valve 3 with signal I , command pressure P is the displacement control pressure; regulator 2 is the displacement adjusting device*), wherein

3) the displacement control signal is calculated in the calculating step based on the required displacement control pressure (*Kowatari, column 10, lines 9-10 and figure 2; the command pressure P axis of figure 2 is the required displacement control pressure; see also figure 7*),

4) the required displacement control pressure being based on a reference characteristic representing a relationship between a required displacement control pressure required to provide a displacement angle corresponding to a displacement command and a required displacement control signal required for the proportional

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electromagnetic valve to generate the required displacement control pressure

(Kowatari, column 10, lines 54-58, figure 6 and 7 shows the reference characteristic).

However, Kowatari fails to disclose the calculating step further comprising:

5) calculating based on the reference characteristic a minimum-side displacement control pressure corresponding to a minimum-side displacement control signal required to achieve a minimum-side displacement that is set in advance for learning and calculating a maximum-side displacement control pressure corresponding to a maximum-side displacement control signal required to achieve a maximum-side displacement that is set in advance for learning.

6) detecting a pressure generated from the proportional electromagnetic valve when the proportional electromagnetic valve is driven with the minimum-side displacement control signal as a first measured pressure,

7) detecting a pressure generated from the proportional electromagnetic valve when the proportional electromagnetic valve is driven with the maximum-side displacement control signal as a second measured pressure,

8) calculating as learned values a first difference between the minimum-side displacement control pressure and the first measured pressure, and a second difference between the maximum-side displacement control pressure and the second measured pressure, in response to an operator-generated displacement command,

9) calculating a correction amount based on the first and second differences and the operator generated displacement command,

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10) correcting a required displacement control pressure required to provide a displacement angle corresponding to the operator-generated displacement command with the correction amount; and calculating the displacement control signal based on the corrected required displacement control pressure with reference to the reference characteristic.

Collins et al. discloses a method for calibrating hydraulic actuator with the calculating step comprising:

5) calculating based on the reference characteristic a minimum-side displacement control pressure corresponding to a minimum-side displacement control signal required to achieve a minimum-side displacement that is set in advance for learning and calculating a maximum-side displacement control pressure corresponding to a maximum-side displacement control signal required to achieve a maximum-side displacement that is set in advance for learning (*Collins, column 3, lines 17-40, column 4, lines 29-31 and table 1; [93.33 psi] is the minimum-side displacement control pressure, [0.000A] is the minimum-side displacement control signal, [84.88 psi] is the maximum-side displacement control pressure, [0.400A] is the maximum-side displacement control signal, lookup table 1 is for learning; NOTE: the lookup table 1 is perform in actuator test stand 12).*

6) detecting a pressure generated from the proportional electromagnetic valve when the proportional electromagnetic valve is driven with the minimum-side displacement control signal as a first measured pressure (*Collins, column 4, lines 53-65;*

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the actuator 14 being measured is the proportional electromagnetic valve, e.g., [93.33 psi] is the pressure generated with the minimum-side displacement control signal, e.g., [93.33 psi] is the first measured pressure; NOTE: the detected first measured pressure is perform in module assembly 26 [see column 4, lines 53-54], 93.33 is just an example arbitrary pressure that corresponds to the minimum-side displacement control signal that is applied to the module assembly 26 [see column 4, lines 55-58]; see also column 2, lines 4-11)

7) detecting a pressure generated from the proportional electromagnetic valve when the proportional electromagnetic valve is driven with the maximum-side displacement control signal as a second measured pressure (*Collins, column 4, lines 53-65; the actuator 14 being measured is the proportional electromagnetic valve, e.g., [84.88 psi] is the pressure generated with the maximum-side displacement control signal, e.g., [84.88 psi] is the second measured pressure; NOTE: the detected second measured pressure is perform in module assembly 26 [see column 4, lines 53-54], 84.88 is just an example arbitrary pressure that corresponds to the maximum-side displacement control signal that is applied to the module assembly 26 [see column 4, lines 55-58]; see also column 2, lines 4-11)*

8) calculating as learned values a first difference between the minimum-side displacement control pressure and the first measured pressure, and a second difference between the maximum-side displacement control pressure and the second measured pressure, in response to an operator-generated displacement command (*Collins,*

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column 4, lines 58-61; the ± 0.1 is the learn value; the first and second difference is determined in step 62),

9) calculating a correction amount based on the first and second differences and the operator generated displacement command (*Collins, column 4, line 66 to column 5, line 6; the first and second differences is determined in step 62, and the correction amount is inherently calculated before the actuator is adjusted within the specific windows*),

10) correcting a required displacement control pressure required to provide a displacement angle corresponding to the operator-generated displacement command with the correction amount; and calculating the displacement control signal based on the corrected required displacement control pressure with reference to the reference characteristic. (*Collins, column 4, line 66 to column 5, line 6; the specified windows is the required displacement control pressure, adjusted means correcting*).

The examiner acknowledges that the invention taught by Collins is not directed to an electromagnetic proportional valve. It's only Collins' calibration method being used as a generic teaching of a well known calibration method; as such, Collins' calibration method could be used in any device, e.g., electromagnetic proportional valve.

As such, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the calibration method as taught by Collins such that the tolerance of the module assemblies (*the Hydraulic pump control system of Kowatari*) are reduced and the performance is increased (*Collins, column 5, lines 14-18*)).

Regarding claims 18 and 22, as stated above, Kowatari et al. teaches a displacement control method and displacement control device, comprising:

1) a calculating step of calculating a displacement control signal for driving a proportional electromagnetic valve based on a displacement command; and

2) an adjusting step of adjusting a displacement angle of a hydraulic device by driving the proportional electromagnetic valve with the displacement control signal calculated in the calculating step, and applying a displacement control pressure generated from the proportional electromagnetic valve to a displacement adjusting device, wherein

3) the displacement control signal is calculated in the calculating step, based on the displacement command, referring to a reference characteristic representing a relationship between the displacement command and a required displacement control signal required for the proportional electromagnetic valve to generate a required displacement control pressure required to provide a displacement angle corresponding to the displacement command,

Kowatari further teaches

4) calculating a minimum-displacement-side control signal used for learning and a maximum-displacement-side control signal used for learning based on the reference characteristic.

Also as stated above, Kowatari fails to disclose the calculating step further comprising:

5) detecting pressures generated from the proportional electromagnetic valve when the proportional electromagnetic valve is driven with the minimum-displacement-side control signal and the maximum- displacement-side control signal as first and second measured pressures, respectively;

6) calculating, based on a relationship between the minimum- displacement-side and maximum-displacement-side control signals and the first and second measured pressures, a minimum displacement control signal for causing the proportional electromagnetic valve to generate a displacement control pressure corresponding to a minimum displacement angle, and a maximum displacement control signal for causing the proportional electromagnetic valve to generate a displacement control pressure corresponding to a maximum displacement angle;

7) calculating a first difference between the minimum displacement control signal and the minimum-displacement-side control signal used for learning, and a second difference between the maximum displacement control signal and the maximum-displacement-side control signal used for learning;

8) generating, based on the reference characteristic and the first and second differences, a learned characteristic representing a relationship between a displacement command and a required displacement control signal corresponding to the displacement command;

9) calculating based on the learned characteristic a correction amount based on the displacement command; and

10) correcting with the correction amount the displacement control signal calculated in the calculating step based on the displacement command referring to the reference characteristic, with the correction amount.

Collins et al. discloses a method for calibrating hydraulic actuator with the calculating step comprising:

5) detecting pressures generated from the proportional electromagnetic valve when the proportional electromagnetic valve is driven with the minimum-displacement-side control signal and the maximum- displacement-side control signal as first and second measured pressures, respectively (*Collins, column 4, lines 53-65; the actuator 14 being measured is the proportional electromagnetic valve, e.g., [93.33 psi] is the pressure detected with the minimum-side displacement control signal, e.g., [93.33 psi] is the first measured pressure , e.g., [84.88 psi] is the pressure detected with the maximum-side displacement control signal, e.g., [84.88 psi] is the second measured pressure; NOTE: the detected first measured pressure is perform in module assembly 26 [see column 4, lines 53-54], 93.33 is just an example arbitrary pressure that corresponds to the minimum-side displacement control signal that is applied to the module assembly 26 [see column 4, lines 55-58]; see also column 2, lines 4-11*);

6) calculating, based on a relationship between the minimum- displacement-side and maximum-displacement-side control signals and the first and second

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measured pressures, a minimum displacement control signal for causing the proportional electromagnetic valve to generate a displacement control pressure corresponding to a minimum displacement angle, and a maximum displacement control signal for causing the proportional electromagnetic valve to generate a displacement control pressure corresponding to a maximum displacement angle (*Collins, column 3, lines 26-33; Collins does not explicitly disclose the min or max control signal is calculated based on the pressure, however, since the relationship is known and one would be able to calculate the signal based on the pressure*);

7) calculating a first difference between the minimum displacement control signal and the minimum-displacement-side control signal used for learning, and a second difference between the maximum displacement control signal and the maximum-displacement-side control signal used for learning (*Collins, column 4, lines 58-61; the +/-0.1 is the learn value; the first and second difference is determined in step 62*);

8) generating, based on the reference characteristic and the first and second differences, a learned characteristic representing a relationship between a displacement command and a required displacement control signal corresponding to the displacement command;

9) calculating based on the learned characteristic a correction amount based on the displacement command (*Collins, column 4, line 66 to column 5, line 6; the first and second differences is determined in step 62, and the correction amount is inherently calculated before the actuator is adjusted within the specific windows*); and

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10) correcting with the correction amount the displacement control signal calculated in the calculating step based on the displacement command referring to the reference characteristic, with the correction amount (*Collins, column 4, line 66 to column 5, line 6; the specified windows is the required displacement control pressure, adjusted means correcting*).

The examiner acknowledged that the invention taught by Collins is not directed to an electromagnetic proportional valve. It's only Collins' calibration method being used as a generic teaching of a well known calibration method; as such, Collins' calibration method could be used in any device, e.g., electromagnetic proportional valve.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the calibration method as taught by Collins such that the tolerance of the module assemblies (*the Hydraulic pump control system of Kowatari*) are reduced and the performance is increased (*Collins, column 5, lines 14-18*)).

Regarding claims 19 and 20, the combination of Kowatari in view of Collins discloses everything claimed in claims 17 and 18.

Kowatari fails to disclose a when detecting the first measured pressure, the displacement control signal is increased from a minimum displacement so as to set the minimum- displacement-side control signal for learning, for use in detection of the first measured pressure; and when detecting the second measured pressure, the displacement control signal is reduced from a maximum displacement so as to set the

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maximum- displacement-side control signal for learning, for use in detection of the second measured pressure..

Collins discloses when detecting the first measured pressure, the displacement control signal is increased from a minimum displacement so as to set the minimum- displacement-side control signal for learning, for use in detection of the first measured pressure; and when detecting the second measured pressure, the displacement control signal is reduced from a maximum displacement so as to set the maximum- displacement-side control signal for learning, for use in detection of the second measured pressure (*Collins, column 4, lines 53-65; the detecting of the first and second measured pressure is performed at step 60; column 1, lines 56-64, the signal is swept from min to max and from max to min*).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the calibration method as taught by Collins so that every measurement value of a electromagnetic value is recorded during sweeping and such sweeping method would provided a better resolution of data which results a more accurate calibration.

Regarding claim 23 and 24, Kowatari discloses a construction machine, comprising a displacement control device according to claims 21 and 22 (*column 8, lines 50-63 “a working machine such as a hydraulic excavator”*).

Conclusion

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Manko Cheung whose telephone number is (571) 270-7917. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 9:30-16:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew A. Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M.C./

October 8, 2009

Drew A. Dunn
/Drew A. Dunn/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2863